

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:JETHYDEN:BABS
APPROVED BY ARA:WHLUERS
S/S:MR. SEBASTIAN
D:BLPASCOE

-----252313Z 114604 /42
O 252245Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 067008

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JM, US

SUBJECT: JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR PROTESTS AFN BROADCAST

1. THIS TELEGRAM IS BASED UPON AN UNCLEARED MEMCON AND IS
SUBJECT TO REVISION.

2.SUMMARY:JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR DELIVERED ORAL PROTEST
MARCH 19 OF ARMED FORCES RADIO (AFN) REBROADCAST RECEIVED
IN JAMAICA. HE REQUESTED USG CORRECTION OF ALLEGEDLY
FALSE INFORMATION IN BROADCAST OR RIGHT OF REPLY FOR
GOJ. DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPLAINED NATURE OF AFN OPERATIONS
AND U.S. CONCEPT OF FREE PRESS, AND SAID IT WAS NOT
LIKELY WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING IN THIS CASE.
HE OFFERED TO CHECK INTO POSSIBILITY OF REPLY ON AFN
AND TO EXPRESS CONCERN TO CBS. DEPT SUBSEQUENTLY
INFORMED JAMAICAN EMBASSY THAT AFN COULD NOT OFFER
OPPORTUNITY TO REPLY BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO CARRY SUCH
REPLY PRODUCED BY CBS; CBS EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO
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CONSIDER GOJ COMPLAINT AND REQUESTED WRITTEN STATEMENT.

3. JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR RATTRAY CALLED ON DEPUTY SECRE-
TARY CHRISTOPHER MARCH 19 TO PROTEST ARMED FORCES RADIO
REBROADCAST MARCH 12 OF COMMENTARY BY M. STANTON EVANS
ON CBS "SPECTRUM" SERIES. RATTRAY SAID THE FONMIN HAD

INSTRUCTED HIM TO EXPRESS THE GREAT CONCERN FELT IN JAMAICA OVER THIS BROADCAST BY A USG AGENCY. HE SAID THE IMPRESSION IN JAMAICA WAS THAT SUCH BROADCASTS REPRESENT VIEWS OF USG AND CREATE VERY NEGATIVE IMPRESSIONS, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE DIRECTION THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE TRYING TO GO. RATTRAY SAID THIS SORT OF PROBLEM HAS OCCURRED BEFORE, WHEN UNFAVORABLE AND FALSE INFORMATION ABOUT JAMAICA WAS ATTRIBUTED TO USG SOURCES. IF LEFT THAT WAY, IT SEEMED TO BE A USG STATEMENT.

4. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID THIS IS UNFORTUNATE, ESPECIALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW DIRECTIONS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP, BUT IT MUST BE SEEN AS PART OF THE PRICE ONE PAYS FOR A FREE PRESS. WE BELIEVE THAT COST IS WELL WORTH PAYING. HE SAID "SPECTRUM" BROADCASTS POLITICAL VIEWS RANGING FROM CONSERVATIVE TO LIBERAL AND THAT THESE ARE REBROADCAST BY AFN ON A CONTRACT BASIS. WE FEEL THE USG SHOULD NOT BE IN THE POSITION OF CENSORING ARMED FORCES RADIO.

5. RATTRAY RESPONDED THAT THE GOJ IS NOT ASKING FOR CENSORSHIP BUT RATHER ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY. HE SAID THAT, IF A GOVERNMENT AGENCY PUTS OUT FALSE INFORMATION, WHEN THAT IS POINTED OUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE A CORRECTION. HE SAID SOME PEOPLE IN THE U.S. ARE ABUSING THEIR PRIVILEGES AND FALSELY ATTACKING FOREIGN COUNTRIES. HE SAID THE GOJ HAS INFORMATION THAT THE NATIONAL CONSERVATIVE UNION IS CONFIDENTIAL

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BEING FED FALSE INFORMATION BY JAMAICAN EMIGREES AND IS KNOWINGLY PUBLICIZING THESE FALSEHOODS. RATTRAY SAID JAMAICA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THAT ANY ORGANIZATION KNOWS IT HAS PUT OUT FALSEHOODS AND WILL NOT MAKE A CORRECTION. THE GOJ DOES NOT OBJECT TO THE PROGRAM BEING BROADCAST BUT ASKS FOR THE RIGHT OF REPLY.

6. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THE GOJ POSITION AND WILL TAKE IT UNDER CONSIDERATION. HE ADDED THAT HE FELT CONSTRAINED TO MENTION THAT THE USG HAD ALSO NOTICED A STEADY STREAM OF ANTI-AMERICAN INFORMATION IN THE JAMAICAN MEDIA, WHICH ARE NOT ENTIRELY INDEPENDENT, AS CBS AND EVANS ARE.

7. RATTRAY ASSERTED THAT THE U.S. PRESS HAS NO GREATER LIBERTIES THAN THE JAMAICAN PRESS. HE SAID THE EMBASSY WOULD APPROACH CBS TO REQUEST THE RIGHT OF REPLY AND HAD WRITTEN TO EVANS BUT SO FAR RECEIVED NO RESPONSE.

HE ADDED THAT THE GOJ HAS REFRAINED FROM COMMENTING ON

EVANS' BROADCAST UNTIL THE AMBASSADOR HAD MADE HIS REPRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON.

8. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY TELEPHONED RATTRAY MARCH 22 TO CONFIRM THAT AFN COULD NOT MAKE ITS FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR GOJ REPLY TO EVANS BUT THAT AFN WOULD CARRY SUCH REPLY IF PRODUCED BY CBS. CHRISTOPHER ACKNOWLEDGED INACCURACIES IN EVANS' COMMENTARY AND EXPRESSED REGRET THAT SUCH INACCURACIES OCCUR. HE OFFERED TO TELL CBS OF STRONG CONCERN JAMAICAN AMBASSADOR HAD EXPRESSED.

9. DEPTOFF (THYDEN) SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED JAMAICAN DCM STIMPSON TO INFORM HIM OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY'S STAFF AND CBS. CBS SAID THEY WOULD CONSIDER GOJ REQUEST, AND CBS ASKED THAT GOJ PUT ITS OBJECTIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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AND PROPOSED REBUTTAL ON PAPER. STIMPSON SAID HE WOULD INFORM AMBASSADOR, WHO WAS OUT OF TOWN, AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR DEPT'S EFFORTS, BUT OFFERED NO OTHER COMMENT.

10. STIMPSON WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT CARTER/MANLEY MEETING IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT NOT LIKELY TO BE IN MAY/JUNE, AS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED IN KINGSTON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, RADIO BROADCASTING
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Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: STATE
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Message ID: 4226d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, JM, US, (RATTRAY)
To: KINGSTON
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4226d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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